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Saturday, December 9, 1905.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The readers of The News will find in today's paper an excellent epitome of President Roosevelt's annual message to Congress. Its perusal will be far more satisfactory than undertaking to wade through the document itself, which is said to be the lengthiest message ever sent to our national lawmakers by any President of the United States. It is estimated that there are thirty thousand words in the message, filling about twenty five columns of the daily paper of average size.

Probably the most remarkable feature about the message is its conservatism. There is nothing sensational about it, no radical recommendations or suggestions, not even evidence of the fiery strenuousness that usually characterizes the public utterances of the Rough Rider President.

As was to be expected, much space is devoted to the president's latest hobby, railroad rate regulation. But even upon this subject he advances nothing new—nothing that he has not already said time and again. He does not advise extreme legislation—nothing like the making of rates for the railroads, but simply the regulation by the government of the rates as made by the railroads themselves. His views are so moderate that even the most zealous defender of corporate interests in Congress will have but little excuse for opposing the president's recommendations.

THE C. & L. R. R. AGAIN.

The Monroe Journal republishes this week what The News recently had to say in relation to the extension of the Cheraw and Lancaster railroad and adds: We repeat that the possibility of Monroe's getting this road is sufficient to warrant the people of this town and the lower section to investigate the situation and take organized action looking to secure it.

Our esteemed contemporary need not give itself any uneasiness about the matter. Both Monroe and Lancaster will no doubt be afforded ample opportunity to "bid" for the road when the time comes for its promoters

to decide upon a route after reaching Lynches river. That is a well known way that railroad companies have of getting out side aid in the construction of their lines.

WINTHROP GIRLS AND CHRISTMAS.

So far as our observation extends, the newspapers of the state, that have expressed any opinion at all on the subject, approve the recent action of the trustees of Winthrop College in refusing to allow the students of that institution to have a Christmas holiday.

We see no reason why the girls should be discriminated against. The students of other state institutions are given a few days' holiday Christmas—why not those of Winthrop also? If it is a good thing for Clemson and South Carolina College boys to spend Christmas at home, why shouldn't it be equally as good for the Winthrop girls? If any distinction is to be made at all it should be in favor of the girls, who are not so likely to be "done up" or "knocked out", by the dissipations of yule-tide and thereby unfitted for school work on their return to college.

Judging by the experience of the past, a lot of the Winthrop girls will go home Christmas, anyway. By a strange coincidence sickness develops in the homes of many of the students about "Christmas time", and in consequence urgent letters and telegrams are rushed to Rock Hill, asking the college authorities to permit the girls to "come home". But the girls and their parents should not be forced to resort to such subterfuges.

LIBRARY DAY IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Next Friday, the 15th instant, is the day that State Superintendent of Education Martin has designated as Library Day in the public schools. That it should be generally observed goes without saying. It is to be hoped, therefore, that teachers, patrons and pupils will heartily cooperate and make the day one of marked success.

No school should be without a library, and there is no excuse for a public school in South Carolina being without one in view of the generous offer made by the state to aid in the establishment of libraries. All a school has to do is to raise ten dollars in order to secure a forty-dollar-library. While a number of schools in Lancaster county have already taken advantage of the state's proposition, there are many others have not done so.

In view of the importance of this matter we republish Superintendent Martin's letter in relation to libraries in the schools, addressed some time ago to county superintendents, teachers and trustees:

The legislative appropriation for this year will allow for the establishment of 200 more libraries and for the increase of a great many of those established last year. The establishment of 200 new libraries and the increase of 100 would mean that at least 25,000 first class books would be placed in the hands of the public school children before the year closes. When the new year begins, we shall have to

wait about two months for another legislative appropriation, even if this year's appropriation is exhausted. I have therefore designated December 15th as Library day, to be observed by the schools of the state with the hope that we may arrange on that day for 25,000 books. I suggest, therefore, that you use that day for some form of public exercises, recitations, lectures, charades, dialogues, oyster supper, phonograph, stereopticon or some other form of public entertainment of your own choosing, to which an admission fee should be charged. Let us do all we can to arouse interest and provide funds for this important work before the year closes.

After December 31st this appropriation will be no longer available. We shall have to wait until after the adjournment of the legislature before next year's appropriation can be used. Let us have a grand rally on December 15th and a good report from every section of the state.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING.

Persons who have Christmas shopping to do, and everybody will do more or less of it, will find it not a bad idea to make their purchases before the rush and jam on the eve of the holidays and before the stocks have been picked over. Selections may now be made more leisurely and much more satisfactorily than later on.

The advertising columns of The News will tell you where to find what you want. The merchants of Lancaster have superb stocks—the best that they have ever had—stocks that compare favorably with any in South Carolina, and those merchants who earnestly desire your patronage are inviting, or will invite, your attention through the medium of The News to their many and varied attractions.

Business Notices.

All Notices inserted under this head at the rate of ONE CENT A WORD for each insertion. No notice to be counted less than 25 words.

THIRTY years' experience enables me to say that I have the finest Christmas Cakes of all kinds to be found, at Bennett's store. W. F. Swaringen.

ROGERS Knives and Forks—the good kind, \$1.00—others \$3.00, and some fancy patterns \$5.00, \$7.50 and \$10.00. Don't buy Clocks until you see the big line. First new store in Springs block, next to First National Bank. Phone 114. B. C. Hough.

WE ARE too busy to tell you what we have. If you want anything good to eat call on Bennett Grocery Co.

IF YOU want some nice fresh Spanish Mackerel and Trout call up the Lancaster Fish Market quick, as they are going fast. Phone 79.

I HAVE two dozen Plain Gold Rings to offer for \$1.00 each—the best value yet offered. Also six Watches worth \$3.00 that I am selling at \$2.00—a splendid present for a boy. First new store in Springs block, next to First National Bank. Phone 114. B. C. Hough.

I HAVE, at L. & C. Depot, 15,000 lbs fine Danish Cabbage for krauting purposes at \$2.00 per hundred lbs. Come quick as they are going fast. E. C. Lanier.

I WISH to impress on your mind the fact that my stock is now ready, and that you can get what you want for Christmas better now than later. We have more time to give to each customer and the stock is more complete. First new store in Springs block, next to First National Bank. Phone 114. B. C. Hough.

WANTED.—Every one to know that Santa Claus has left a large portion of his good things at the Excelsior Fruit Stand, kept by LEMMOND. Best New York and Vermont Apples, Sweet Florida Oranges, Malaga Grapes, Turkish Figs, Arabian Dates, Lemons, California Prunes, Jersey Cranberries, Mixed New Crop Nuts (no cold storage), Barico Coconuts, Domestic and Italian Chestnuts. Fine assortment French and American Candies, Canned Goods, Cigars, Snuff, Smoking and Chewing Tobaccos, etc., etc.

FOR SALE AT COST.—I have 500 Cultivated Blackberry plants for sale at 5cts apiece, which is just what they cost me. E. C. Lanier, Lancaster, S. C.

Don't
Put
Off
The

OVERCOAT

You will want it tomorrow. Look at our \$12.50 Overcoats..... Match them if you can for \$15.00. Others as low as \$3.00.

Wool Underwear

That doesn't shrink—warm, soft, serviceable and it will be the same size in March as when it started off in December.

Ladies' READY TO WEAR Hats

We have just received a fresh supply of these goods, and they are going at the usual rock-bottom prices. Come and see them.

Straws show which way the wind blows.
Crowds show which way the trade goes.

We are having the largest fall trade in the history of our business, yet we are not depending on chin music or printed prices. Come, let us show you our Dress Goods, Ladies' Jackets, Shoes, Clothing and Furniture.

Williams-Hughes Co

The Underselling Store